

---

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

---

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA TO CONVENE A MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS TASK FORCE AND REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO COMPLETE A MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.

1 WHEREAS, there is a shortage of physicians in the State,  
2 with shortages being even more pronounced on the neighbor  
3 islands; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, there appears to be a pronounced shortage of  
6 primary care physicians, as well as physicians of all  
7 specialties on neighbor islands, including cardiologists,  
8 obstetricians and gynecologists, internists, psychiatrists,  
9 pediatricians, and neurologists, as well as physician extenders,  
10 such as advanced practice registered nurses with prescriptive  
11 authority and physician assistants, and allied mental health  
12 professionals, such as psychologists, social workers, marriage  
13 and family therapists, and other therapists, on the neighbor  
14 islands; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, one proven solution to aid in addressing unmet  
17 medical needs on the neighbor islands is telemedicine and, with  
18 respect to psychiatric disease, telepsychiatry, which is  
19 currently finding increasing success in treating children with  
20 psychiatric disease on Hawaii and Maui, and which was supported  
21 by Act 159, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, there has been an increase in the number,  
24 complexity, and life-threatening side effects of medications  
25 used to treat brain disorders; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, these side effects, including heart attacks and  
28 strokes, are of such concern that the United States Food and  
29 Drug Administration ordered "black box warnings" on psychiatric  
30 medications; and  
31



1 WHEREAS, these medications, while effective, can have  
2 bothersome, hazardous, and potentially lethal side effects  
3 involving both the body and the brain; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, patients with severe psychiatric illnesses die  
6 twenty-five years younger than the rest of our community, not by  
7 suicide, but due to medical diseases, including diabetes, heart  
8 failure from high blood pressure, lung disease from cigarette  
9 smoking, stroke, and heart attacks, all of which can be made  
10 worse by medications prescribed to alleviate psychiatric  
11 disease; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, the training and practice of psychiatrists has  
14 therefore become increasingly focused on dealing with the bodily  
15 consequences of psychiatric disease and the medications used to  
16 treat them, including such consequences as smoking, diabetes,  
17 stroke, heart attacks, and kidney failure, which are  
18 increasingly common in patients afflicted with schizophrenia,  
19 bipolar I disorder, and severe depression; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, physician extenders, such as advanced practice  
22 registered nurses with prescriptive authority and physician  
23 assistants, by virtue of their biology, chemistry, physiology  
24 and medical-based training, are qualified to treat patients,  
25 under a physician's supervision, with medications for  
26 infections, high blood pressure, and diabetes, as well as the  
27 more moderate mood and anxiety disorders; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, many health and brain disorders can be treated by  
30 social workers, family therapists, the clergy, and  
31 psychologists, using psychotherapy, including techniques like  
32 cognitive-behavioral therapy, and faith-based therapies, as well  
33 as a spectrum of other therapies; and  
34

35 WHEREAS, there are numerous non-physician mental health  
36 care professionals trained to deliver psychological and  
37 spiritual therapies within the scope of their training and  
38 expertise, including doctoral level therapists, such as Ph.D.  
39 clinical, counseling, and school psychologists and Psy.D.  
40 clinical psychologists, as well as Master's degree level  
41 therapists, such as Masters of Social Work, marriage and family  
42 therapists, and mental health counselors, as well as other



1 mental health counselors, including pastors, rabbis, Buddhist  
2 monks and priests, Shinto priests, and Muslim and other  
3 spiritual healers, who, through their non-pharmacological  
4 expertise, significantly help to heal psychiatric distress; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, the training of all non-medically trained mental  
7 health care professionals, such as ministers and psychologists,  
8 have no overlap with the standard training required of medically  
9 trained health care professionals, such as advanced practice  
10 registered nurses with prescriptive authority and physician  
11 assistants; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, the standard training required of medically  
14 trained health care professionals includes medical school  
15 prerequisite-level coursework in chemistry, biology,  
16 mathematics, microbiology, and other topics; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, it has been suggested by proponents of legislation  
19 proposing to confer prescriptive authority to clinical  
20 psychologists that, under certain conditions, clinical  
21 psychologists may be qualified to prescribe medications; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, this view is unjustified by the fact that  
24 psychologists are not required to complete the coursework in  
25 biology, chemistry, physiology, medicine, and the other sciences  
26 required of all other disciplines qualified to prescribe  
27 medication, including primary care physicians, psychiatrists,  
28 advanced practice registered nurses, advanced practice  
29 psychiatric nurses, and appropriately trained and supervised  
30 physician assistants; and  
31

32 WHEREAS, these competing views need to be carefully  
33 examined; and  
34

35 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the health, safety, and  
36 well-being of the State to consider the appropriateness of  
37 conferring prescriptive authority to various health care  
38 professionals to treat mental illness in Hawaii; now, therefore,  
39

40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
41 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
42 Session of 2015, that the Department of Psychiatry of the



1 University of Hawaii at Manoa is requested to convene a Mental  
2 Health Access Task Force (Task Force) to develop  
3 recommendations:  
4

- 5 (1) For the establishment of standards for psychiatric and  
6 mental health care in the State, with particular  
7 attention to the neighbor islands and rural areas;  
8
- 9 (2) To increase access to psychiatrists; and  
10
- 11 (3) Regarding how telemedicine and physician extenders,  
12 and the use of allied mental health care  
13 professionals, such as spiritual leaders, social  
14 workers, marriage and family therapists, mental health  
15 counselors, and psychologists, might improve access to  
16 the appropriate level of treatment by the  
17 appropriately designated discipline, be it spiritual  
18 healing, psychotherapy, or medication; and  
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that  
21 the Task Force be assigned to the Department of Psychiatry of  
22 the University of Hawaii at Manoa for administrative purposes  
23 and make recommendations and propose legislation to improve  
24 access to mental health care; and  
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that  
27 the Task Force be composed of:  
28

- 29 (1) The Chairperson of the Department of Psychiatry of the  
30 University of Hawaii at Manoa, or the Chairperson's  
31 designee, who is requested to serve as the chairperson  
32 of the Task Force;  
33
- 34 (2) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;  
35
- 36 (3) The Director of Human Services, or the Director's  
37 designee;  
38
- 39 (4) The Deputy Director of the Corrections Division of the  
40 Department of Public Safety, or the Deputy Director's  
41 designee;  
42



- (5) A representative of the Insurance Commissioner who is familiar with issues of access to health care;
- (6) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Health, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (7) The Chairperson of the House Committee on Health, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (8) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (9) The Chairperson of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (10) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (11) The Chairperson of the House Committee on Higher Education, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (12) The Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (13) The Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Medical Services Association, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee;
- (14) The President of Kaiser Permanente (Hawaii), or the President's designee;
- (15) A psychopharmacology expert, as designated by the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Hawaii at Manoa;
- (16) A psychology expert, as designated by the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Hawaii at Manoa;



- 1 (17) A psychiatrist working in a community health center,  
2 as designated by the Hawaii Primary Care Association;  
3
- 4 (18) A psychiatrist working in a community mental health  
5 center, as designated by the Department of Health;  
6
- 7 (19) A psychiatric nurse practitioner, as designated by the  
8 School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene of the University  
9 of Hawaii at Manoa;  
10
- 11 (20) A Doctor of Pharmacy, as designated by the Daniel K.  
12 Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawaii  
13 at Hilo;  
14
- 15 (21) An expert in telepsychiatry, as designated by the  
16 Department of Psychiatry of Tripler Army Medical  
17 Center;  
18
- 19 (22) An expert in forensic psychiatry, as designated by the  
20 Hawaii Health Systems Corporation;  
21
- 22 (23) A psychiatric physician assistant, as designated by  
23 the Hawaii Medical Board;  
24
- 25 (24) A naturopathic physician, as designated by the Board  
26 of Naturopathic Medicine;  
27
- 28 (25) A licensed marriage and family therapist, as  
29 designated by the Director of Commerce and Consumer  
30 Affairs;  
31
- 32 (26) A licensed mental health counselor, as designated by  
33 the Department of Psychology of the University of  
34 Hawaii at Hilo;  
35
- 36 (27) A psychiatry resident, as designated by the Department  
37 of Psychiatry of the University of Hawaii at Manoa;  
38
- 39 (28) A doctoral candidate of the psychology Ph.D. degree  
40 program, as designated by the Department of Psychology  
41 of the University of Hawaii at Manoa;  
42



- 1 (29) A patient with a diagnosis of schizophrenia for a  
2 minimum of five years who is currently receiving  
3 treatment, including antipsychotic medication, and  
4 residing on the island of Oahu, as designated by the  
5 Hawaii Health Systems Corporation;  
6
- 7 (30) A patient with a diagnosis of bipolar disorder for a  
8 minimum of five years who is currently receiving  
9 treatment, including mood stabilizing medication, such  
10 as Lithium, Depakote, or both, and residing on the  
11 island of Oahu, as designated by the Hawaii Health  
12 Systems Corporation; and  
13
- 14 (31) A patient with a diagnosis of severe depression for a  
15 minimum of five years who is currently receiving  
16 treatment, including medication, and residing on the  
17 island of Oahu, as designated by the Hawaii Health  
18 Systems Corporation; and  
19
- 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the issues to be addressed by  
21 the Task Force include:  
22
- 23 (1) An inventory of the mental health professional  
24 workforce available in the State;  
25
- 26 (2) The distribution of that workforce, with particular  
27 attention to the neighbor islands and rural areas of  
28 Hawaii; and  
29
- 30 (3) The means by which access to mental health care by  
31 those professionals, including physicians, such as  
32 primary care physicians and psychiatrists, physician  
33 extenders, such as advanced practice nurse  
34 practitioners and physician assistants, allied mental  
35 health professionals, such as social workers, marriage  
36 and family therapists, mental health counselors,  
37 psychologists, and spiritual healers, may be improved;  
38 and  
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than September 1,  
41 2015, the Auditor is requested to complete and submit to the  
42 Task Force a mental health workforce assessment of mental health



1 professionals and mental health facilities in Hawaii to identify  
2 shortages and determine how those shortages can be reduced; and  
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
5 include in the assessment, information on professionals who are  
6 qualified to prescribe medications used to treat mental illness,  
7 including psychotropic and anti-psychotic medications; and  
8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that  
10 the mental health workforce assessment include:  
11

12 (1) The estimated number and geographic dispersion of the  
13 following mental health professionals currently  
14 located and practicing in the State:  
15

16 (A) Psychiatrists;  
17

18 (B) Psychologists, Ph.D.;  
19

20 (C) Psychologists, Psy.D.;  
21

22 (D) Advanced practice psychiatric nurses;  
23

24 (E) Licensed clinical social workers;  
25

26 (F) Mental health counselors;  
27

28 (G) Marriage and family therapists;  
29

30 (H) Substance abuse counselors; and  
31

32 (I) Other licensed and unlicensed individuals who  
33 provide mental health care; and  
34

35 (2) The estimated number of university students in the  
36 State who studied the mental health subjects of  
37 psychiatry, psychology, clinical mental health  
38 counseling, human services, social work, nursing, and  
39 marriage and family therapy, and who graduated with  
40 one of the following degrees from an undergraduate or  
41 graduate program in Hawaii:  
42





- 1 (A) Bachelor's;
- 2
- 3 (B) Master's;
- 4
- 5 (C) Doctorate, M.D., D.O., and N.D.;
- 6
- 7 (D) Doctorate, Ph.D.;
- 8
- 9 (E) Doctorate, Psy.D.; and
- 10
- 11 (F) Other degrees associated with mental health care;
- 12 and
- 13
- 14 (3) The name and location of the following mental health
- 15 facilities located in Hawaii:
- 16
- 17 (A) Long-term care facilitation units, "closed";
- 18
- 19 (B) Medium-term care facilitation units;
- 20
- 21 (C) "Open" units;
- 22
- 23 (D) Juvenile wards;
- 24
- 25 (E) Out-patient clinics;
- 26
- 27 (F) Halfway houses; and
- 28
- 29 (G) Other facilities providing mental health care;
- 30 and
- 31

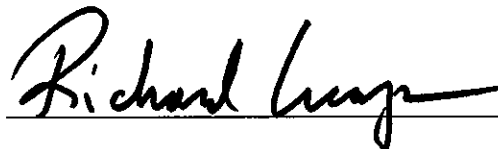
32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to  
33 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
34 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
35 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
36 2016; and

37  
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Director of Commerce  
40 and Consumer Affairs, Director of Health, Director of Human  
41 Services, Insurance Commissioner, Deputy Director of the  
42 Corrections Division of the Department of Public Safety,



1 Chairperson of the Department of Psychiatry of the University of  
2 Hawaii at Manoa, Chairperson of the Department of Psychology of  
3 the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Chairperson of the Department  
4 of Psychology of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Dean of the  
5 Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawaii  
6 at Hilo, Dean of the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene of the  
7 University of Hawaii at Manoa, Chairperson of the Senate  
8 Committee on Health, Chairperson of the House Committee on  
9 Health, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Commerce and  
10 Consumer Protection, Chairperson of the House Committee on  
11 Consumer Protection and Commerce, Chairperson of the Senate  
12 Committee on Higher Education and the Arts, Chairperson of the  
13 House Committee on Higher Education, Chairperson of the Board of  
14 Naturopathic Medicine, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of  
15 the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Chairperson of the Hawaii  
16 Medical Board, Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Medical  
17 Services Association, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of  
18 the Hawaii Primary Care Association, President of Kaiser  
19 Permanente (Hawaii), and Chief of Psychiatry at Tripler Army  
20 Medical Center.

OFFERED BY:



MAR 13 2015

